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ALBERTO CULVER CO
Form 10-Q
February 08, 2002

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED:

December 31, 2001

-OR-

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File No. 1-5050

ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	36-2257936
-----	-----
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2525 Armitage Avenue	60160
Melrose Park, Illinois	
-----	-----
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (708) 450-3000

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES X NO___

At December 31, 2001, the company had 25,267,424 shares of Class A common stock and 32,331,640 shares of Class B common stock outstanding.

PART I

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ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Earnings
 Three Months Ended December 31, 2001 and 2000
 (in thousands, except per share data)

	(Unaudited)	
	2001	2000
Net sales (Note 7)	\$614,260	563,867
Cost of products sold (Note 7)	313,588	294,257
Gross profit	300,672	269,610
Advertising, promotion, selling and administrative (Note 7)	250,276	228,595
Operating earnings	50,396	41,015
Interest expense, net of interest income of \$1,198 in 2001 and \$1,202 in 2000	5,329	5,752
Earnings before provision for income taxes	45,067	35,263
Provision for income taxes	15,773	11,637
Net earnings (Note 6)	\$ 29,294	23,626
Net earnings per share (Note 6)		
Basic	\$ 0.52	0.42
Diluted	\$ 0.50	0.41
Cash dividends paid per share	\$.0825	.075

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets

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December 31, 2001 and September 30, 2001
(dollars in thousands, except share data)

ASSETS	(Unaudited) December 31, 2001
-----	-----
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 91,449
Short-term investments	1,017
Receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts (\$12,366 at 12/31/01 and \$11,387 at 9/30/01)	170,093
Inventories:	
Raw materials	40,898
Work-in-process	4,764
Finished goods	459,906
Total inventories	505,568
Other current assets	26,891
Total current assets	795,018
Property, plant and equipment at cost, less accumulated depreciation (\$246,596 at 12/31/01 and \$236,035 at 9/30/01)	
Goodwill, net	332,464
Trade names, net	76,393
Other assets	59,476
Total assets	\$ 1,507,954
=====	
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	

Current liabilities:	
Short-term borrowings and current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 2,786
Accounts payable	206,812
Accrued expenses	137,697
Income taxes	21,141
Total current liabilities	368,436

Long-term debt	321,123
Deferred income taxes	39,203
Other liabilities	29,387
Stockholders' equity:	
Common stock, par value \$.22 per share:	
Class A authorized 75,000,000 shares; issued 30,612,798 shares	6,735
Class B authorized 75,000,000 shares; issued 37,710,655 shares	8,296
Additional paid-in capital	195,723
Retained earnings	804,369
Deferred compensation	(7,127)
Accumulated other comprehensive income - foreign currency translation	(77,725)
Total	930,271

Less treasury stock at cost (Class A common shares: 5,345,374 at 12/31/01 and	

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6,741,946 at 9/30/01; Class B common shares:	(180,466)
5,379,015 at 12/31/01 and 4,753,184 at 9/30/01)	-----
Total stockholders' equity	749,805

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,507,954
	=====

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Three Months Ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 (dollar amounts in thousands)

	(Unaudited)

	2001

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	

Net earnings	\$ 29,294
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	10,213
Amortization of goodwill, trade names and other assets	994
Cash effects of changes in (exclusive of acquisitions):	
Receivables, net	3,549
Inventories, net	(14,810)
Other current assets	(498)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(16,915)
Income taxes	(3,232)
Other assets	242
Other liabilities	(921)

Net cash provided by operating activities	7,916

Cash Flows from Investing Activities:	

Short-term investments	(141)
Capital expenditures	(15,864)
Payments for purchased businesses, net of acquired companies' cash	(95,596)
Other, net	134

Net cash used by investing activities	(111,467)

Cash Flows from Financing Activities:	

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Short-term borrowings, net	(201)
Proceeds from long-term debt	--
Repayments of long-term debt	(97)
Cash dividends paid	(4,717)
Cash proceeds from exercise of stock options	25,870
Stock purchased for treasury	(27,999)

Net cash used by financing activities	(7,144)

Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash	174

Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(110,521)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	201,970

Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 91,449
	=====

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(1) BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The consolidated financial statements contained in this report have not been audited by independent public accountants, except for balance sheet information presented at September 30, 2001. However, in the opinion of the company, the consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which include only normal adjustments, necessary to present fairly the data contained therein. The results of operations for the periods covered are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. Certain amounts for the prior year have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

(2) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

On January 24, 2002, the company announced an increase in the cash dividend on Class A and Class B common stock, raising the quarterly dividend 9.1% to 9 cents per share or 36 cents annually. The cash dividend is payable February 20, 2002 to stockholders of record on February 5, 2002.

In fiscal year 1998, the Board of Directors authorized the company to purchase up to 6.0 million shares of its Class A common stock. This authorization was increased to 9.0 million shares in fiscal year 1999. As of December 31, 2001, the company had purchased 7,290,400 Class A common shares under this program at a total cost of \$162.9 million. No Class A shares have been purchased under this program since October, 1999.

During the three months ended December 31, 2001, the company acquired \$28.0 million of Class A and Class B common shares surrendered by employees in connection with the exercises of stock options and the payment of withholding taxes as provided under the terms of certain incentive plans. Shares acquired under these plans are not subject to the above-mentioned stock repurchase program.

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(3) WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING

The following table provides information about basic and diluted weighted average shares outstanding (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	56,851	56,197
Effect of dilutive securities:		
Assumed exercise of stock options	1,247	1,131
Assumed vesting of restricted stock	412	--
	-----	-----
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	58,510	57,328
	=====	=====

Stock options for 5,000 shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three months ended December 31, 2000, as the options' exercise prices were greater than the average market price and, therefore, were anti-dilutive. No stock options were anti-dilutive for the three months ended December 31, 2001.

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(4) COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income consists of net earnings and foreign currency translation adjustments as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
Net earnings	\$ 29,294	23,626
Other comprehensive income adjustments-foreign currency translation	(16,441)	3,060
	-----	-----
Comprehensive income	\$ 12,853	26,686
	=====	=====

(5) BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

Segment data for the three months ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 is as follows

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(in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
Net sales:		

Consumer products:		
Alberto-Culver North America	\$147,105	131,330
Alberto-Culver International	92,932	93,361
	-----	-----
Total consumer products	240,037	224,691
Specialty distribution - Sally	380,506	346,581
Eliminations	(6,283)	(7,405)
	-----	-----
	\$614,260	563,867
	=====	=====
Earnings before provision for income taxes:		

Consumer products:		
Alberto-Culver North America	\$ 15,698	13,160
Alberto-Culver International	937	719
	-----	-----
Total consumer products	16,635	13,879
Specialty distribution - Sally	38,482	34,522
	-----	-----
Segment operating profit	55,117	48,401
Unallocated expenses, net	(4,721)	(7,386)
Interest expense, net of interest income	(5,329)	(5,752)
	-----	-----
	\$ 45,067	35,263
	=====	=====

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(6) GOODWILL AND TRADE NAMES

In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 141, "Business Combinations" and SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." SFAS No. 141 addresses financial accounting and reporting for business combinations. SFAS No. 142 addresses financial accounting and reporting for acquired goodwill and other intangible assets, requires companies to discontinue the amortization of goodwill and certain other intangible assets and requires an impairment test of existing goodwill and certain other intangible assets based on a fair value method. The company adopted SFAS No. 141 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2001. The company also adopted SFAS No. 142 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2001 for new acquisitions and in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 for previously acquired intangibles. In accordance with SFAS No. 142, the company

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determined that its trade names have indefinite lives and, therefore, the amortization of trade names was discontinued effective October 1, 2001. Based on the results of the company's transitional impairment testing, no impairment of indefinite-lived trade names existed at October 1, 2001. In addition, as required by SFAS No. 142, the company ceased the amortization of goodwill effective October 1, 2001. The company's initial impairment testing of goodwill is required to be completed by the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2002.

In accordance with SFAS No. 142, fiscal year 2001 results in the consolidated statement of earnings have not been restated for the effects of ceasing goodwill and trade name amortization. Had goodwill and trade name amortization been discontinued effective October 1, 2000, net earnings and earnings per share for the three months ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 would have been as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2001	2000
Reported net earnings	\$ 29,294	23,626
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	2,011
Pro forma net earnings	\$ 29,294	25,637
Reported basic earnings per share	\$ 0.52	0.42
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	0.04
Pro forma basic net earnings per share	\$ 0.52	0.46
Reported diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.50	0.41
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	0.04
Pro forma diluted net earnings per share	\$ 0.50	0.45

The change in the carrying amount of goodwill by operating segment for the three months ended December 31, 2001 is as follows (in thousands):

	Consumer Products		Special Distribut
	North America	International	Sally
Balance as of September 30, 2001	\$ 69,379	79,648	115,312
Additions	236	--	76,197
Foreign currency translation effect	--	(8,219)	(89)

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	-----	-----	-----
Balance as of December 31, 2001	\$ 69,615	71,429	191,420
	=====	=====	=====

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(6) GOODWILL AND TRADE NAMES (Continued)

Indefinite-lived trade names by operating segment at December 31, 2001 and September 30, 2001 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2001 ----	September 30, 2001 ----
Trade names, net: -----		
Consumer products:		
Alberto-Culver North America	\$ 45,414	45,414
Alberto-Culver International	30,756	33,857
	-----	-----
Total consumer products	76,170	79,271
Specialty distribution - Sally	223	261
	-----	-----
	\$ 76,393	79,532
	=====	=====

(7) NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In May 2000, the FASB's Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) reached a consensus on Issue No. 00-14, "Accounting for Certain Sales Incentives." EITF Issue No. 00-14 addresses the recognition, measurement and income statement classification for various types of sales incentives including coupons, rebates and free products. In April 2001, the EITF reached a consensus on Issue No. 00-25, "Vendor Income Statement Characterization of Consideration Paid to a Reseller of the Vendor's Products." EITF Issue No. 00-25 addresses the income statement classification for various types of consideration paid by a vendor to a retailer. The company adopted the provisions of EITF Issue Nos. 00-14 and 00-25 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002. In connection with the adoption of EITF Issue Nos. 00-14 and 00-25, the company reclassified certain amounts for the first quarter of fiscal year 2001 to conform to the current year presentation resulting in a \$29.7 million reduction in net sales, a \$2.1 million increase in cost of products sold and a \$31.8 million decrease in promotion expense. Consolidated net earnings were not affected by these reclassifications.

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

First Quarter Ended December 31, 2001 versus First Quarter Ended December 31,
2000

The company achieved record first quarter net sales of \$614.3 million in fiscal year 2002, up \$50.4 million or 8.9% over the comparable period of the prior year.

Net earnings were \$29.3 million for the three months ended December 31, 2001 or 24.0% higher than the prior year's first quarter net earnings of \$23.6 million. Basic earnings per share of 52 cents in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 were 10 cents or 23.8% higher than the same period of fiscal year 2001. Diluted earnings per share for the current quarter increased 22.0% to 50 cents from 41 cents in the same period of the prior year.

As discussed under "New Accounting Pronouncements," the company discontinued the amortization of goodwill and trade names in fiscal year 2002. Had last year's results been restated to eliminate goodwill and trade name amortization, net earnings for the three months ended December 31, 2001 would have increased \$3.7 million or 14.3% versus the prior year with basic earnings per share increasing 6 cents or 13.0% and diluted earnings per share increasing 5 cents or 11.1%.

Compared to the same period of the prior year, sales of Alberto-Culver North America ("North America") consumer products increased 12.0% in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002. The increase was primarily due to the introduction of TRESemme Hydrology and higher sales for St. Ives Swiss Formula body washes and the TCB and Motions ethnic hair care lines along with increased sales for custom label filling operations.

Sales of Alberto-Culver International consumer products ("International") decreased 0.5% in the first quarter of fiscal 2002 compared to last year. Fiscal year 2002 results were negatively impacted by the effect of foreign exchange rates. Had foreign exchange rates this year been the same as the first quarter of fiscal 2001, International sales would have increased 1.0%.

The "Specialty distribution - Sally" business segment achieved a sales increase of 9.8% for the first quarter of fiscal year 2002. The increase was mainly attributable to the expansion of Sally's full-service operations, higher sales for established Sally Beauty Company outlets and the addition of stores during the year. At December 31, 2001, Sally Beauty Company had 2,475 company-owned stores offering a full range of professional beauty supplies.

Cost of products sold as a percentage of net sales was 51.1% for the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 compared to 52.2% for the first quarter of the prior year. The lower cost of products sold percentage in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 was primarily due to increased sales of higher margin products and lower manufacturing costs.

Compared to the prior year, advertising, promotion, selling and administrative expenses in fiscal year 2002 increased \$21.7 million or 9.5% for the first quarter. The increase primarily resulted from the higher selling and administrative costs associated with the growth of the Sally Beauty Company

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business and higher expenditures for advertising, promotion and market research.

Advertising, promotion and market research expense was \$46.1 million and \$41.3 million in fiscal years 2002 and 2001, respectively. The increase primarily resulted from higher advertising expenditures for North America related mainly to TRESemme Hydrology, St. Ives Swiss Formula facial and lotion products and Alberto VO5.

Net interest expense in fiscal year 2002 decreased \$423,000 for the first quarter compared to the same period of the prior year. The decrease was primarily attributable to the payoff of borrowings under the company's Swedish Krona revolving credit facility.

The provision for income taxes as a percentage of earnings before income taxes was 35.0% for the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 compared to 33.0% for the first quarter of the prior year. The higher 2002 tax rate is mainly due to the mix of foreign taxable earnings.

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

FINANCIAL CONDITION

December 31, 2001 versus September 30, 2001

Working capital at December 31, 2001 was \$426.6 million, a decrease of \$60.0 million from \$486.6 million at September 30, 2001. The resulting ratio of current assets to current liabilities was 2.16 to 1.00 at December 31, 2001 compared to 2.25 to 1.00 at September 30, 2001. The decrease in working capital and the ratio of current assets to current liabilities was primarily due to the acquisition of full-service beauty supply distributors by Sally Beauty Company during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002, primarily Armstrong-McCall.

Cash and cash equivalents decreased \$110.5 million during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 primarily due to the acquisition of full-service beauty supply distributors by Sally Beauty Company and capital expenditures.

Inventories increased \$27.3 million to \$505.6 million during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 mainly due to the acquisition of full-service beauty supply distributors and the growth of Sally Beauty Company.

Net goodwill increased \$68.1 million during the first three months of fiscal year 2002 mainly due to goodwill from acquisitions during the quarter, partially offset by the effects of foreign exchange rates.

Accounts payable increased \$15.4 million to \$206.8 million during the first three months of fiscal year 2002 mainly due to the timing of inventory purchases and vendor payments.

Accrued expenses decreased \$27.8 million during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 primarily due to payments under various incentive plans and semi-annual interest payments on the company's \$320 million of public debt securities.

Accumulated other comprehensive income - foreign currency translation increased \$16.4 million primarily due to the effect of the devaluation of the Argentine Peso. The balance sheet for the company's Argentine operations was translated into U.S. dollars using an exchange rate of 1.65 Argentine Pesos to the dollar

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as of December 31, 2001 versus 1.00 Argentine Pesos to the dollar as of September 30, 2001.

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 141, "Business Combinations" and SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." SFAS No. 141 addresses financial accounting and reporting for business combinations. SFAS No. 142 addresses financial accounting and reporting for acquired goodwill and other intangible assets, requires companies to discontinue the amortization of goodwill and certain other intangible assets and requires an impairment test of existing goodwill and certain other intangible assets based on a fair value method. The company adopted SFAS No. 141 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2001. The company also adopted SFAS No. 142 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2001 for new acquisitions and in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002 for previously acquired intangibles. In accordance with SFAS No. 142, the company determined that its trade names have indefinite lives and, therefore, the amortization of trade names was discontinued effective October 1, 2001. Based on the results of the company's transitional impairment testing, no impairment of indefinite-lived trade names existed at October 1, 2001. In addition, as required by SFAS No. 142, the company ceased the amortization of goodwill effective October 1, 2001. The company's initial impairment testing of goodwill is required to be completed by the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2002.

(Continued)

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ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

In accordance with SFAS No. 142, fiscal year 2001 results in the consolidated statement of earnings have not been restated for the effects of ceasing goodwill and trade name amortization. Had goodwill and trade name amortization been discontinued effective October 1, 2000, net earnings and earnings per share for the three months ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 would have been as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2001	2000
	----	----
Reported net earnings	\$29,294	23,626
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	2,011
	-----	-----
Pro forma net earnings	\$29,294	25,637
	=====	=====

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Reported basic earnings per share	\$ 0.52	0.42
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	0.04
	-----	-----
Pro forma basic net earnings per share	\$ 0.52	0.46
	=====	=====
Reported diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.50	0.41
Amortization of goodwill and trade names, net of income taxes	--	0.04
	-----	-----
Pro forma diluted net earnings per share	\$ 0.50	0.45
	=====	=====

In May 2000, the FASB's Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) reached a consensus on Issue No. 00-14, "Accounting for Certain Sales Incentives." EITF Issue No. 00-14 addresses the recognition, measurement and income statement classification for various types of sales incentives including coupons, rebates and free products. In April 2001, the EITF reached a consensus on Issue No. 00-25, "Vendor Income Statement Characterization of Consideration Paid to a Reseller of the Vendor's Products." EITF Issue No. 00-25 addresses the income statement classification for various types of consideration paid by a vendor to a retailer. The company adopted the provisions of EITF Issue Nos. 00-14 and 00-25 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2002. In connection with the adoption of EITF Issue Nos. 00-14 and 00-25, the company reclassified certain amounts for the first quarter of fiscal year 2001 to conform to the current year presentation resulting in a \$29.7 million reduction in net sales, a \$2.1 million increase in cost of products sold and a \$31.8 million decrease in promotion expense. Consolidated net earnings were not affected by these reclassifications.

In August, 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." SFAS No. 144 addresses financial accounting and reporting for the impairment or disposal of long-lived assets, including the presentation of discontinued operations in the statement of earnings. The company is required to adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 144 no later than the first quarter of fiscal year 2003 and does not expect its implementation to have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

FORWARD - LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the documents incorporated by reference herein, if any, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such statements are based on management's current expectations and assessments of risks and uncertainties and reflect various assumptions concerning anticipated results, which may or may not prove to be correct. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from estimates or projections contained in such forward-looking statements include the pattern of brand sales, including variations in sales volume within periods; competition within the relevant product markets, including pricing, promotional activities, continuing customer acceptance of existing products, loss of distributorship rights and the ability to develop and successfully introduce new products; risks inherent in acquisitions and strategic alliances;

the effects of a prolonged United States or global economic downturn or

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recession; changes in costs, including changes in labor costs, raw material prices or promotional expenses; the costs and effects of unanticipated legal or administrative proceedings; variations in political, economic or other factors such as currency exchange rates, inflation rates, expansive trends, tax changes, legal and regulatory changes or other external factors over which Alberto-Culver Company has no control. Alberto-Culver Company has no obligation to update any forward-looking statement in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or any incorporated document.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

There have been no material changes in the company's market risk during the three months ended December 31, 2001.

PART II

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Exhibits:

None

(b) Reports on Form 8-K:

No report on Form 8-K was filed by the registrant during the quarter ended December 31, 2001.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY
(Registrant)

By: /s/ William J. Cernugel

William J. Cernugel
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

February 7, 2002

